Reviewer's report

Title: Kidney Injury Molecule-1 Expression in Human Kidney Transplants With Interstitial Fibrosis and Tubular Atrophy

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Reviewer: Marilda Mazzali

Reviewer's report:

In this paper Nogare et al analyzed the use of KIM-1 as a biomarker of IFTA in renal allografts, and found that increased levels of KIM-1 had a positive correlation with interstitial fibrosis. It is a well designed and interesting paper. However, there are few questions:

1. Considering that patients with CNI toxicity also have a degree of interstitial fibrosis, and all biopsies were analyzed according to Banff 2007, it will be interesting to show the correlation of KIM-1 with different levels of i, t, ct and ci scores.

2. Authors states that there is a correlation between mRNA expression in urinary cells, protein and mRNA. However, in table 3, the expression of mRNA in urinary cells for ITFA II is 0.1, while for IFTA I is 1.3 and IFTA III is 5.8. Also, value range is similar in all groups. Is this value for IFTA II correct or is a typo? If this is the correct value, how authors can explain the results?

3. In figure 2, why a different staining was used in pannel C? Is the counterstaining Harris hematoxylin or methyl green? Or the difference is just a picture problem?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interest